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PATENT
Customer Number: 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 02356.0010-05

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Marc ALIZON et al.) Group Art Unit: 1648
)
Application No.: 09/986,799 ✓) Examiner: J. Parkin
)
Filed: November 13, 2001)
)
For: A VARIANT OF LAV VIRUSES)

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

STATEMENT OF SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW

Pursuant to the Interview Summary mailed on December 17, 2003, applicants summarize the substance of the Interview below.

Applicants thank Examiner Parkin for the courtesy of the Interview conducted on December 4, 2003, during which claims 23-30 were discussed. Applicants traversed the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, and pointed to support in the specification for the claims. The Examiner agreed that the specification contained sufficient support for the claims and that the claims were in condition for allowance.

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Subsequent to the December 4, 2003, Interview and to the receipt of the Notice of Allowance dated December 17, 2003, the Examiner called applicants' representative on December 22, 2003, advising that the instant application is allowable, but that amendment of the claims by the insertion of the term "isolated" or "purified" was allegedly required to avoid reading on products of nature.

Applicants are considering the proposed amendment and will respond in due course.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

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Date: January 16, 2004

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